



Janet Napolitano  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stephen A. Owens  
Director

## **NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE A NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE AN INDIVIDUAL AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT**

**Public Notice No.: 09-09**

**Re-Published on Friday, October 17, 2008  
in the Arizona Silver Belt Newspaper**

Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality intends to issue an Individual Aquifer Protection Permits (APPs) to the following applicants:

1. **Facility Name:** Freeport-McMoRan Miami, Inc. Mine  
**Aquifer Protection Permit No.:** P-100523  
**Permitee:** Freeport-McMoRan Miami Inc.  
PO Box 4444, Claypool, Arizona 85532
2. **Facility Name:** BHP Copper, Inc., Miami Unit  
**Aquifer Protection Permit No.:** P-101546  
**Permitee:** BHP Copper Inc.  
PO Box 100, Miami, Arizona 85539
3. **Facility Name:** BHP Copper, Inc., Copper Cities Unit  
**Aquifer Protection Permit No.:** P-105310  
**Permitee:** BHP Copper Inc.  
PO Box 100, Miami, Arizona 85539

The Freeport-McMoRan Miami, Inc. Mine facility, the BHP Copper, Inc., Miami Unit and the Copper Cities Unit are located within the Pinal Creek Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) site. The proposed individual area-wide APPs will authorize operation of mine facilities that are not part of the WQARF remedial actions. Freeport-McMoRan Miami, Inc. (formerly known as the Cyprus Miami Operations, Phelps Dodge Miami and before that as the Inspiration Operations) is an open-pit, porphyry-copper mining and smelting operation. The BHP Copper, Inc. Miami Unit is a 700 acre site that consists of an in-situ leaching area and a solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) plant that produces refined copper cathodes from the leaching operations. The BHP Copper, Inc., Copper Cities Unit consists of two pits, two main leach dumps, waste rock piles, and a variety of impoundments and diversions structures used to transport and or impound process water and/or stormwater.

The three APPs require operational monitoring at each site to ensure the facilities are inspected and maintained to meet Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology standards. Groundwater monitoring is required to demonstrate aquifer water quality standards are met at the points of compliance. Each individual APP contains Compliance Schedule items which require specific actions to be taken within a prescribed timeframe after permit issuance.

The draft permit and related documentation are available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at ADEQ, 1110 West Washington Street, Records Management Center, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. In Phoenix, please call (602)771-4380 or e-mail [RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov](mailto:RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov) 24 hours in advance to schedule an appointment to review the file.

Northern Regional Office  
1801 W. Route 66 • Suite 117 • Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
(928) 779-0313

Southern Regional Office  
400 West Congress Street • Suite 433 • Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 628-6733

Copies of the draft APPs will also be available to the public at the Miami Town Hall, 500 Sullivan Street, in Miami, Arizona.

Persons may submit comments or request a public hearing on the proposed action, in writing, to Barry Rechterovich, Project Manager, ADEQ, Groundwater Section, 1110 West Washington Street, MC5415B-3, Phoenix, AZ 85007 within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. A public hearing request must include the reasons for such request.

**ADEQ has extended the public comment period for these three draft Aquifer Protection Permits to 45 days. Written comments must be received at the above address by 5 p.m. Friday, October 24, 2008.**